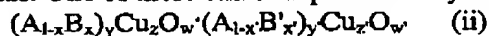


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### Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph from lines 5-15 on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

The general formula (i) above embraces several sub-species of superconducting ceramic materials. One of these can be represented by the general formula



in which  $0.1 \leq x < 1$

$$0.1 \leq x' < 1$$

$$y = 2.0-4.0, \text{ preferably } 2.5-3.5,$$

$$y' = 2.0-4.0, \text{ preferably } 2.5-3.5,$$

$$z = 1.0-4.0, \text{ preferably } 1.5-3.5,$$

$$z' = 1.0-4.0, \text{ preferably } 1.5-3.5,$$

$$w = 4.0-10.0, \text{ preferably } 6.0-10.0 \text{ ~~8.0~~},$$

$$w' = 4.0-10.0, \text{ preferably } 6.0-8.0,$$

A is one rare earth element and

each of B and B' are two is one or more alkaline earth elements.

Please replace the paragraph from line 22 on page 5 to line 4 on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The term "rare earth elements" used herein should be given the same meaning as that in "Chambers Dictionary of Science and Technology", that is, the lanthanide elements of atomic numbers 57 to 71, together with scandium (atomic no. 21) and yttrium (atomic no. 39), namely, La, Ce, Pr, ~~Nb~~ Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Sc and Y. The alkaline earth metals are those belonging to Group 2A of the Periodic Table, namely, Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba and Ra.

Please replace the paragraph from line 21 on page 7 to line 3 on page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

#### EXAMPLE 1

Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, BaCO<sub>3</sub>, CaCO<sub>3</sub> and CuO all in the form of fine powders having a purity of 99.95% or higher were mixed in the proportions required by formula (ii) with  $x=0.67$  (A:B=1:2);  $x'=0.33$  0.67 (A:B'=2:1 1:2);  $y=1.0$  3.0;  $y'=1.0$  3.0;  $z=3.0$ ;  $z'=3.0$ ;  $w=6$  to 8; and  $w'=6$  to 8 with A being yttrium, B being barium and B' being calcium (B:B'=1:1).

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Please replace the paragraph from lines 4-11 on page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

EXAMPLE 2

$\text{Yb}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{BaCO}_3$ ,  $\text{Sr}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{CuO}$  all in the form of fine powders having a purity of 99.95% or higher were mixed in the proportions required by formula (ii) with  $x=0.67$  ( $A:B=1:2$ );  $x'=0.33$   ~~$0.67$~~  ( $A:B'=2:1$   ~~$1:2$~~ );  $y=1.0$   ~~$3.0$~~ ;  $y'=1.0$   ~~$3.0$~~ ;  $z=3.0$ ;  $z'=3.0$ ;  $w=6$  to  $8$ ; and  $w'=6$  to  $8$  with  $A$  being ytterbium,  $B$  being barium and  $B'$  being strontium ( $B:B'=1:1$ ).

Please replace the paragraph from lines 1-9 on page 10 with the following amended paragraph:

EXAMPLE 4

$\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Yb}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{BaCO}_3$ ,  $\text{CaCO}_3$  and  $\text{CuO}$  all in the form of fine powders having a purity of 99.95% or higher were mixed in the proportions required by formula (ii) with  $x=0.33$   ~~$0.67$~~  ( $A:B=2:1$   ~~$1:2$~~ );  $x'=0.66$   ~~$0.67$~~  ( $A:B=1:2$ );  $y=1.0$   ~~$3.0$~~ ;  $y'=1.0$   ~~$3.0$~~ ;  $z=3.0$ ;  $z'=3.0$ ;  $w=6$  to  $8$ ; and  $w'=6$  to  $8$  with  $A$  being yttrium,  $A'$  being ytterbium,  $B$  being barium and  $B'$  being calcium ( $B:B'=1:1$ ;  $A:A'=1:1$ ,  $1:2$  or  $1:5$ ).

Please replace the EXAMPLE 6 on page 11 with the following amended EXAMPLE 6:

EXAMPLE 6

The procedure of Example 4 was repeated but with 30% of  $\text{Y}$  and  $\text{Yb}$  substituted by  ~~$\text{Nb}$~~   $\text{Nd}$  (introduced as  ~~$\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_3$~~ ,  $\text{Nd}_2\text{O}_3$ ). Tc onset was elevated further by 3-5 °K.

Please replace the paragraph from line 21 on page 11 to line 2 on page 12 with the following amended paragraph:

EXAMPLE 7

$\text{Yb}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{BaCO}_3$ ,  $\text{Sr}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{CuO}$  all in the form of fine powders having a purity of 99.95% or higher were mixed in the proportions required by formula (i) with  $x=0.67$  ( $A:B=1:2$ );  $y=1.0$   ~~$3.0$~~ ;  $z=3.0$ ; and  $w=6$  to  $8$  with  $A$  being yttrium and ytterbium, and  $B$  being barium ( $\text{Y}:\text{Yb}$  being  $1:1$ ,  $1:2$  or  $1:5$ ).

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Please replace lines 11-13 of EXAMPLE 9 on page 13 with the following amended lines:

EXAMPLE 9

The procedure of Example 7 was repeated but using 20-30 % of Y and Yb substituted by ~~Nb~~ Nd (introduced as ~~Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>~~ Nd<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>). Tc onset was elevated further by 6-10 °K.